



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Ser N977/03042
13 Feb 03

Dear Colleagues,

Dozens of chaplains and RPs have been immersed in conflict this week in San Diego. . .and all of them will be the better for it.

These chaplains and RPs have been participating in the Professional Development Training Course (PDTC) on conflict management. This is the third in a series of 11 sessions to be held in Navy and Marine Corps concentration areas around the world between January and May. This year's course is entitled, "Lessons in Conflict Management: Human Factors in Managing Conflict." The feedback thus far has been extremely positive.

The theme for this training could not have been better chosen as we, and the rest of the world, now sit in war's waiting room, dreading the call that may come at any moment to cross that threshold separating us from the realm of ultimate human conflict. At the same time, not a day goes by that our concern about the conflicts of nations is not interrupted by the more mundane conflicts of neighbors, co-workers, and families. We live in a world of conflicts large and small.

And it is for our work in that world that this PDTC has been developed. Our Subject Matter Experts bring lessons from their experience in high visibility, politically-charged situations and in face-to-face confrontations between individuals. As we have seen in recent years, any chaplain can be thrust suddenly onto the world stage in the midst of great turmoil. And no evidence is required to convince us that every chaplain will be thrust-with almost daily regularity-into the common conflicts of contending people. The PDTC offers something of value for those facing either, or both, of these situations.

Notice, too, that the PDTC's focus is conflict *management*. Professionals in the field of conflict recognize that many conflicts defy resolution. But managing conflict for the benefit of all involved remains within the bounds of the possible and at the center of the desirable. While chaplains and RPs cannot manage everyone's conflict, this year's PDTC will help everyone attending help everyone they attend to manage

conflict more effectively. As proclaimers of God's grace and practitioners of God's ministry, we bless our people when we better our ability to bring them to more peaceful places in their lives and their relationships.

Sign up for a PDTC if you haven't done so already. The sites, dates and contact information are posted on the web at <https://www.cnet.navy.mil/netpdtc/chaplain/course 03.html>. And after you've spent a week immersed in this PDTC, sustain its impact through a personal commitment to continued study and practice of good conflict management skills. This PDTC, after all, is not the last word in conflict management. Peacemaking, the positively expressed goal of conflict management, requires our continuous, on going commitment to study, practice, and growth. Is it worth this effort? For those who want to be called God's daughters and sons, it is.

I pray our God will bless you and keep you as you minister in his name during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry C. Black". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Chief of Chaplains